

REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 21, 2008 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 15 and 16 have been added to depend upon allowed claims 7 and 14, respectively, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Applicant is grateful for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 5-7 and 12-14.

Rejected claims 1-4 and 8-11 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 5-7 and 12-16 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe. The Office Action took the position that Watanabe discloses all the aspects of independent claim 1 and related dependent claims 2-4. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-

4, without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the rejection of claims 1-4 under §102 over Watanabe is considered moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,499,306 to Sasaki et al. ("Sasaki"). The Office Action took the position that Watanabe and Sasaki disclose all the aspects of claims 8-11. Applicant has cancelled claims 8-11, without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the rejection of claims 8-11 under §103 over Watanabe and Sasaki is considered moot.


CONCLUSION:

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention recites subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. Applicant further submits that the subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unobvious to a person of skill in the art. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this application pass to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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